

Strawberry Class Activity Ideas

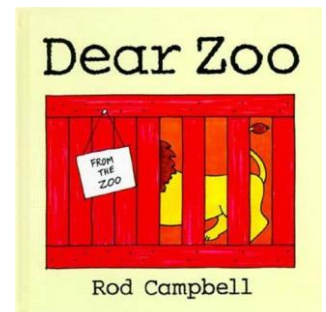
Week commencing 23rd March 2020

This week, we are learning all about “Wild animals and nature”. Please find this month’s home-school learning activities below. These activities mirror and extend the learning opportunities the children would engage with at nursery.

There are some great online resources that we access via Safeshare.tv as this platform has a content filter for children under 5 years of age. Although it uses YouTube as a source for short videos and clips, it cleans up the videos and removes all advertisements. It also allows us to edit the videos so the children only view the content relevant to enhance our chosen topic.

Story Time: ‘Dear Zoo’ by Rod Campbell

Read the story using different tones of voice in order to capture your child’s attention. If you have got small boxes at home, you can even use small toy animals and package them up, ready for shipping! Whilst you are reading the story with your child you can use puppets or the cut-out template that we have provided to create a more interactive story time. Please encourage the children to repeat words, phrases and sentences from the story, supporting them in learning new adjectives such as “jumpy”, “fragile”, “fierce”.



You are also able to listen to this story being read by following the YouTube Link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rudDGRQ9QGA>

Please be strongly advised that this is a direct YouTube link and you are responsible for any subsequent content that may appear around the video. A full screen view often minimises peripheral content, but adverts may still pop up along the bottom of the screen.

Other books you can read are ‘**Monkey Puzzle**’ by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, ‘**Walking Through the Jungle**’ by Julie Laconbe ‘**The Tiger Who Came to Tea**’ by Judith Kerr, or factual books showing pictures of real jungle animals.



Making Playdough

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of plain flour
- 1 cup of salt
- 1 tablespoon of oil
- 1 cup of warm water
- 2 drops of liquid food colouring – any colour of your choosing

Method:

- Mix the flour and salt together in a large mixing bowl.
- Add the warm water, oil and drops of food colouring and mix together.
- When your ingredients are well mixed, take them out of your bowl and place your dough onto a flat surface, such as greaseproof paper or a table.
- Knead vigorously for a few minutes, until your dough feels like playdough and all of the stickiness has gone.

If your dough is too wet, add a little extra flour and carry on kneading. If your dough is too dry and crumbly, add an extra drop of cold water and carry on kneading. Make sure you add any extra ingredients a little bit at a time.

What is kneading?

This is when you press, massage, squeeze and fold your dough.

- ***“Using your play dough can you make your own wild animal?”***

Resources:

- Playdough
- Googly eyes (if possible)
- Buttons (if possible)
- Pipe cleaners (if possible)

Method:

- Explore the texture of the playdough.
- Model it using your own fingers, rollers and cutters (if you have some at home).
- Talk about what they look like (how many legs, eyes, tall/short neck, the sounds the animals make).



- ***“Move like a Wild Animal”***

Pretend you are in the jungle and you are a wild animal... “Can you move like a frog?”, “Can you fly like a bird?”, “Can you snap like a crocodile?”, “Can you slither like a snake?”.



- ***“Safari Hunt: “Can you Make Binoculars using Rolls?”***

You can role model being an explorer! Let’s make binoculars as follows:

Resources:

- 1 kitchen roll, cut in half.
- Mark-making tools (paintbrushes, felt-tips, crayons, paint).
- Sellotape / masking tape.
- Decorations (anything you may have at home, such as glitter, pompoms, tissue paper)
- Cotton, wool, string or a shoelace.

Method:

- Paint or draw on both cardboard rolls using the mark making tools you have at home.
- Decorate your binoculars using glitter, pieces of paper, stickers, pompoms, or other bits and bobs you may have at home.
- Help your child to stick the cardboard rolls together using Sellotape.
- Attach the string/shoelace around the binoculars using Sellotape to put them around their neck.

Making a snake

“Can you make a snake using some tights following these instructions?”

Resources:

- Tights (colourful if possible) or long colourful sock (if you don’t have any tights)
- Newspaper/magazine
- Googly eyes/buttons
- PVA glue/Sellotape
- Red fabric
- Paint, glitter, sequins, paintbrushes, etc. (if available)



Method:

- Cut the legs off a pair of tights (colourful if possible), keeping the length a little longer than you want your snake to be. If you don't have any tights, use a long colourful sock.
- Through the opening, stuff the tights with scrunched up newspaper or pages from an old magazine. Do this until the leg of the tights is full.
- Tie a knot in the end.
- Glue on googly eyes.
- Using red material cut out and stick on a fork-shaped tongue.
- Decorate your snake using buttons, paint, glitter, sequins or any colourful resources you have.



Garden Hunt

Can you challenge your child to find the objects on the Garden Hunt activity sheet in your garden? Each time your child finds one of the objects, encourage them to put a blue mark next to the objects they can find and a red mark next to the object your child does not manage to find. Once you have completed the activity, count the blue dots and the red dots (separately).

When counting, help your child to use one number name for each dot, touching each one as they count. Ask your child questions such as "How many objects did you find in the garden?" and "Were there more blue marks or red marks?"



Nature Collage

After completing the garden hunt, can you bring some resources from the garden into your house to create a nature collage picture. This could include grass, petals, sticks and pebbles.

Jungle songs

You can learn these songs with your child by following the YouTube links below:

- **5 Little monkeys jumping on the bed:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0j6AZhZFb7A>
- **5 Little monkeys swinging through the trees:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2jnqUyck0>
- **Walking through the jungle:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plvY0quSyJg>
- **Animal Boogie:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25_u1GzruQM
- **Sleeping Bunnies:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHcFQ9gaMF4>
The lyrics for this song can be changed. For example, instead of being a sleeping 'bunny' your child could be a lion who has to "roar" upon waking. You can do this with any jungle or zoo animal you like.
- **Incy Wincy Spider:** This song has become integral in our teaching the children about a Growth Mindset. We sing this song to teach the children about perseverance and having a real 'can do' attitude. We talk about the importance of not giving up and trying and trying again if they find something challenging: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwpBXDVytHs>



Please be strongly advised that these are the direct YouTube links and you are responsible for any subsequent content that may appear around the video. A full screen view often minimises other content, but adverts may still pop up along the bottom of the screen.

Fine motor skill activities

It is very important for children to be continuously strengthening the muscles in their fingers and hands. We provide the children with numerous fine motor skill activities to enhance this at nursery. Below are some activities you can do at home:



Ripping Paper

Resources:

- Magazines, newspapers, books

Method:

If you have any old magazines, newspapers or books that are ready for the bin give these to the children. Encourage them to rip the pages/paper up into small pieces.

- Washing Animals

Resources:

- Sponges, toothbrushes
- Water
- Soap
- Tray, bowl or bathtub
- Jungle animal toys (if possible, if not you can wash other toys instead)



Method:

Fill a tray, bowl or bathtub with water and soap. Provide your child with sponges and toothbrushes and let them wash the jungle animals independently.

- Puzzle Animal

Resources:

- Printable template
- Scissors
- Glue, piece of paper/card in case your child would like to stick their work.

Method:

Print pictures of wild animals (template also provided), cut them in puzzle shapes (maximum four or five pieces) and challenge your child to put them back together.

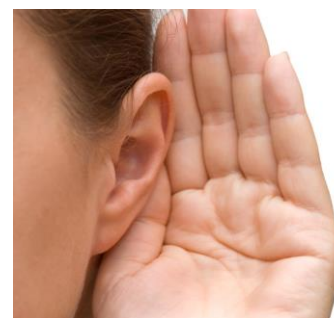


“Number of the Week: 3”

We have been introducing a number of the week to the children. They have started to recognise and learn numbers 1 and 2 already and we would like them to start recognising number 3. Can your child find any numbers in the house: on the cooker, front door, in a book etc. Show your child what number 3 looks like and ask them select “3” items. For example, they could choose 3 books or at breakfast time, you could cut their piece of toast into 3 pieces. Role model and count with your child.

Listening to Animal Sounds

- Zoo Animals: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JA2yR8ZMzc> This video is connected to our book 'Dear Zoo' and shows an image of the animal that is making the sound after about 5-7 seconds. We think you will find some of the sounds most intriguing!



Again – there are some great games on YouTube. These videos can be played on a minimised screen (no images, just sound) as they are listening games. You could watch them before and make note of what each sound is:

- Listening Game (mixed sounds): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOKp_J9kvNM
- Listening Game (mixed sounds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGRKZ-tctvM>
- Guess The Sound (20 sounds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1m4h79JZso>
- Guess The Sound (20 sounds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTNL3WXEexA>

There are plenty of videos in both the series above so you can explore the additional videos in the same series.

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Our Germ Song

We sing this song with the children every day when cleaning our hands before mealtimes, to remind them why we need to wash our hands. We would encourage you to sing this song at home with your child too before they eat. This is a simple song and the lyrics are as follows:

“Everybody Wash your hands, Wash your hands, Wash your hands, Everybody wash your hands to keep the germs away.”

Using water, black pepper and soap, you can do a science experiment to show your child the importance of using soap when washing our hands to keep the ‘Germs’ (pepper) away.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho0o7H6dXSU>

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Home Learning Journal

We hope that you have a fantastic time doing the activities. Please can you also make a small scrapbook of the activities, making notes of anything that your child may say and do whilst working on the activities. We would love you to print off and include photos of your child ‘in action’ doing the activities.

Happy Learning!